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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 1, 2023**

H.B. 6760, An Act Concerning Civics Education and Media Literacy

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning **H.B. 6760, *An Act Concerning Civics Education and Media Literacy***.

The bill establishes the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force to study and develop strategies to improve instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy, and American government. The Judicial Branch supports the concept of the bill, as we believe that it is essential to impress upon young people that they have a vital role in our democracy – just like everyone else – and that enhanced resources and activities for civics education are crucial.

As such, the Judicial Branch, in collaboration with the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Bar Association, has recently launched its first-ever Civics Academy to educate fifth-grade students about their role and responsibilities in a democratic society. The Civics Academy's student-centered curriculum is structured in a way so as not to create extra work for teachers. A judge and an attorney present the 50-minute lesson, which is entirely self-contained; teachers do not have to prep their students beforehand.

A foundation is established with the first activity and then students build upon that foundation throughout the lesson. The first section is *Rules and Fairness*; the second,

Representative Democracy; and the third, *Democracy and You*. All participating judges and attorneys have received training on how to deliver the lesson plan, which the Young Lawyers Section of the Connecticut Bar Association had developed previously.

The Judicial Branch would be happy to participate on a task force to expand the opportunities available for students and members of the community to learn how they can participate in our democracy.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.